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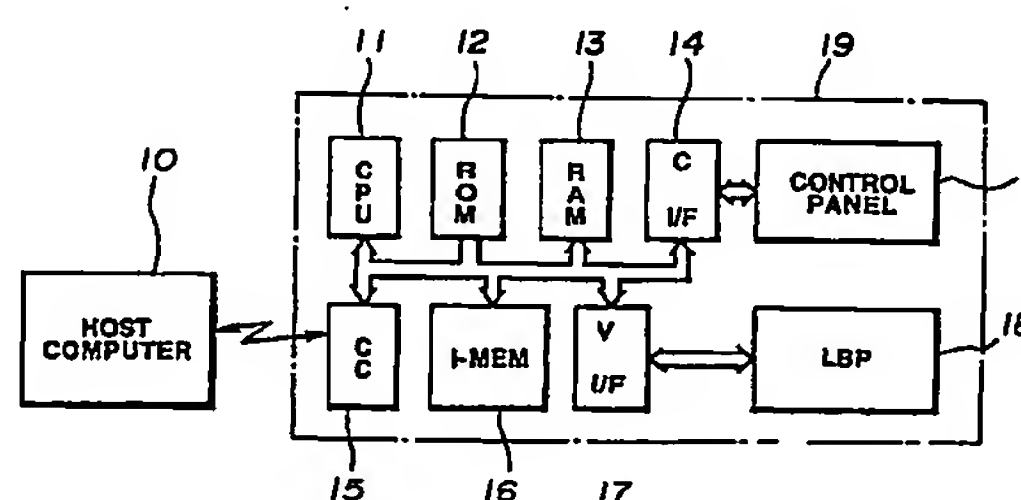
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(54) **Printing apparatus and method.**

(57) A printing apparatus is shown which converts printing information, such as page description language, into dot data, and has an image memory (16) which stores the dot data so as to reuse the dot data for printing an image or overlaying further image.

FIG.1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
X	US-A-4 825 405 (MAKINO ET AL.) 25 April 1989	1,2	G06K15/00 G06K15/02
Y	* column 1, line 30 - column 3, line 4 * * column 3, line 39 - column 4, line 46 * * column 6, line 63 - column 7, line 2 *	9,12,14	
A	---	7,17	
Y	GB-A-2 220 511 (CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA) 10 January 1990 * abstract * * figures 8-10 *	3,6,8,9, 12,14-16	
Y	US-A-5 025 398 (NELSON) 18 June 1991 * column 1, line 54 - column 6, line 33 * * abstract; figures 1,2 *	3,6,8, 15,16	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 12, no. 249 (P-730)14 July 1988 & JP-A-63 039 085 (RICOH CO LTD) 19 February 1988 * abstract *	5,11	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
A	US-A-5 029 327 (NUREKI) 2 July 1991 * the whole document *		G06K
A	US-A-4 991 114 (KAWAMURA ET AL.) 5 February 1991 * abstract; figure 3 *		

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 29 APRIL 1993	Examiner GOOSSENS A.M.J.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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